GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:452
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2016
Census of Animals
Pal Shri Jagdambika

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any animal census has been conducted by the Government in order to estimate their population in the country and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the census is limited to certain wild animals only and if so, the reasons therefor;
(c) the details of the criteria adopted by the Government to select animals for census; and
(d) the manner in which the population of wild animals is estimated in the absence of specific census?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a), (b) and (c)Wild animal census of iconic species like Tiger, Elephant, Rhino and Lions are carried out by the respective State/UT Governments. However, at the national level, Tiger census is carried out periodically. As per the latest census, the estimated population of tiger, elephant, lion and rhinoceros as received from the States is given in the Annexure.

Tiger census is conducted nationally as the Central Government has undertaken Tiger conservation as a national flagship programme and the National Tiger Conservation Authority has been established for focused tiger conservation initiatives.

(d)Depending on specific animals, the observation on population density are made based on the habit and habitat of various animals. Population trends are assessed based on observation of frequency of sightings, herd sizes and occurrence of indirect evidences such as, kills, droppings, foot marks etc.
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